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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/656,258	09/08/2003	Yuuki Horigome	D-1541	8595

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, LUONG TRUNG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	02/06/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/656,258

Applicant(s)

HORIGOME, YUUKI

Examiner

LUONG T. NGUYEN

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5-10 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 09/08/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1-10 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1 (line 14), claim 5 (line 21), "the planar portions" should be changed to --the two planar portions--.

Claim 2 (line 2), claim 6 (line 3), "the imaging element" should be changed to --the imaging device--.

Claim 5 (lines 11-12), "changing a photographing direction" should be changed to -- changing another photographing direction--.

Claim 3 (lines 1-2), claim 7 (lines 1-2), claim 8 (lines 1-2), "said planar portions" should be changed to --said two planar portions--.

Claims 2-4 are objected as being dependent on claim 1.

Claims 6-10 are objected as being dependent on claim 1.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kumai (JP 09-069976).

Regarding claim 1, Kumai discloses a scanning camera comprising:

an imaging device (camera devices 1a, 1b, figure 2, paragraph [0012]) for capturing an image having an image pickup element (CCD 4a, 4b, figure 1, paragraph [0012]),

a support shaft (the support shaft of a rotary table 12, yawing axis 11, figure 2, paragraph [0017]) attached to the imaging device for changing a photographing direction,

a frame (rotary table 12, figure 2, paragraph [0017]) for supporting the imaging device through the support shaft,

a driver (servo motor 19a, figure 2, paragraph [0017]) attached to the frame for rotating the imaging device,

a flexible connector (cords 9a, 9b, figure 2, paragraph [0012]) electrically connected to the image pickup element and having two planar portions, said two planar portions extending to the frame from at least two positions of the imaging device at opposite sides relative to an axis of the support shaft (two planar portions of cords 9a, 9b are arranged at opposite sides relative to axis 11, figure 2) such that the planar portions of the flexible connector are arranged parallel to

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the axis of the support shaft (the planar portions of cords 9a, 9b are arranged parallel to axis 11, figure 2).

Regarding claim 2, Kumai discloses wherein said flexible connector is arranged in front of the imaging element in the photographing direction within a range of a rotational motion of the imaging device (cord 9a, 9b is arranged in front of camera devices 1a, 1b, figure 2).

Regarding claim 3, Kumai discloses wherein said planar portions of the flexible connector extending from the at least two positions of the imaging device have substantially identical elastic forces when the imaging device faces a predetermined photographing direction (noted that the camera devices 1a, 1b can rotate with respect to pitching axis 14 and yawing axis 11, the two positions of cords 9a, 9b extended from camera devices 1a, 1b have identical elastic forces when the camera devices 1a 1b rotate since cords 9a, 9b are flexibility, figure 2, paragraphs [0012], [0016], [0017]).

Regarding claim 4, Kumai discloses wherein said two planar portions of the flexible connector extend from the imaging device substantially symmetrical with respect to the axis of the support shaft (the planar portions of cords 9a, 9b are arranged symmetrical with respect to axis 11, figure 2).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 5-10 are allowed.

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The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Regarding claim 5, the prior art of the record fails to show or fairly suggest a scanning camera comprising:

a second support shaft attached to the first frame for rotationally supporting the first frame for changing a photographing direction,

a second frame attached to the second support shaft for supporting the first frame through the second support shaft, the first frame,

a flexible connector electrically connected to the imaging element and having two planar portions, said two planar portions extending to the first frame from at least two positions of the imaging device at two opposite sides relative to an axis of the first support shaft such that the planar portions are parallel to the axis of the first support shaft, said two planar portions extending from the at least two positions of the first frame to the second frame at two opposite sides relative to an axis of the second support shaft such that the planar portions are parallel to the axis of the second support shaft.

Claims 6-10 are allowable for the reason given in claim 5.

Conclusion

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Blackshear (US 4,945,367) discloses surveillance camera system.

Nakamura et al. (US 5,652,619) discloses image system for video conference.

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Mercadal et al. (US 7,000,883) discloses method and apparatus for stabilizing payloads, including airborne cameras.

Hovanky (US 6,356,308) discloses device for rotatably position a camera or similar article about two orthogonal axes.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LUONG T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-7315. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DAVID L. OMETZ can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LN
2/02/07



LUONG T. NGUYEN
PATENT EXAMINER